

Jefferson County, Wisconsin Revenue Policy

Policy

The County must be sensitive to the balance between the need for services and the County's ability to raise taxes, charges and fees to support those services.

The County relies on property tax as one of the main sources of revenues to fund state and local programs and services.

The County, as authorized by state statute, enacted a 0.5% County sales tax to help reduce the property tax.

The County attempts to maintain a diversified and stable revenue stream. The County continues its efforts for greater reliance on true user fee service charges to help offset reductions of federal/state funding and to reduce reliance on property tax revenues. Service and user fee charges are implemented for those that can be individually identified and where costs can be directly related to the level of service provided.

The County Board will set all fees, rates and charges for services which are County controlled and independent of any statutory controls.

The County will establish all user charges and fees at a level related to the full cost (operating, indirect and capital, etc.) of providing the services.

The County will regularly review fees and user charges to allow the rates to keep pace with the cost of providing services.

The County will follow an aggressive policy of collecting revenues.

The County maximizes its return on investment consistent with its investment policy. Investment income is used to reduce reliance on the property tax levy.

One-time revenues shall not be used to fund continuing operating costs, except to manage a short-term spike in program costs, the phasing of a new or expanded program, making investments that have future payoffs and to smooth out the impacts of significant state and/or federal funding reductions.

During the budget process the County will estimate its annual revenues by an objective analytical process.

Administration

This policy is for use in guiding financing decisions of the County, and can be interpreted by the County Board as part of overall discussions related to revenue. It is administered in conjunction with the County's other fiscal policies. It may be amended or revised from time to time as determined by the County Board.